

ATTACHMENT A Remarks

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application, with claims 1-10 and 13 indicated as being allowed, and claims 11 and 12 being rejected. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rampal in view of Tonneriux, Ashfield et al. or Wallace et al., and claims 1-10 and 13 were allowed. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 11 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 1, namely that the raised regions on each planar face each extend outwardly of the respective planar face by between 2% and 5% of the nominal thickness of the space between the planar faces. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12 are further distinguishable over the prior art and recite allowable subject matter by including the aforementioned limitation from claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 11 should be entered after final, as the amendment does not raise new considerations which require more than a cursory review in order to examine the amended claims. Consequently, no undue burden or extensive consideration would be necessary in order to examine the amended claims in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 714.13. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment After Final should be entered.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

END REMARKS